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to Know
In Time**

Air Conditioning & REFRIGERATION



NEWS

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WPB SAID TO PLAN CHECK ON DEFENSE HOUSING REFRIGERATORS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Compliance Division of the War Production Board is said to be planning soon a check of the operations of dealers and building firms authorized to supply and install new mechanical refrigerators in defense housing projects.

The survey is to cover builders who have requested 10 or more refrigerators for installation in a particular project. Dealers will report on a special questionnaire.

HOUSE GROUP DEMANDS MORE AID, DEFERMENTS, FOR SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Declaring that "small business faces extinction because of lack of sympathetic consideration in the War program," the House of Representatives Committee on Small Business last week recommended more consideration for "the civilian economy" from both the War Production Board and the War Manpower Commission.

The committee observed that:

"The War Manpower Commission does not appear to have afforded business any substantial relief from a critical condition caused by the indiscriminate drafting of men for the armed services.

"There seems to be an overemphasis on production for military use and an underemphasis on production for civilian use. There are appearing ominous signs that insufficient attention is being given to the maintenance of a proper volume of essential civilian protection.

The committee urged that the Smaller War Plants Corp., an arm of WPB, be reorganized to give "competent management" and take prime contracts for war materials of simple construction and for essential civilian supplies and sublet the contracts to small concerns.

Other recommendations included the following:

Immediate action by government agencies "to assure the production of adequate food supplies" with classification of the processing and distribution of food as "essential War industries."

"Equitable distribution" of available food supplies among large and small distributors.

Revision of OPA policies to permit the passing on of price increases to all levels of distribution; to guarantee "a reasonable net profit" over operating costs, and to prevent compulsory changes in business practices and cost practices.

Suspension of the WPB "concentration of industry program" and provision for fair compensation to owners of businesses forced to close.

Draft deferment of enough automobile me-
(Concluded on Page 2, Column 5)

Task Committee On Repairs Asks 'Immediate Action' To Facilitate Refrigeration System Maintenance

Higher Ratings, Manpower Deferments Recommended

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Immediate action to safeguard essential refrigerating and air conditioning equipment against breakdown, and to provide for quick repair service was recommended in a task committee report presented at a recent joint meeting of the Advisory Committee of the General Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry and the Heavy Machinery Segment

of the Industrial Refrigeration Industry held in Washington.

The committee pointed out the importance of refrigerating and air conditioning equipment in food processing, transportation and storage, and in the production of many items directly needed for the war, including chemicals, explosives, and synthetic rubber. War production, it was recognized, will be retarded and serious loss in food supplies will occur if this equipment breaks down and cannot be quickly repaired.

It is expected that the increased use of fresh food, due to restrictions on canned and processed food for home consumption, will make greater demands on transportation and storage refrigeration. Hence the refrigeration warehouses of the country must be kept in continuous operation.

In this connection the report quoted a letter from J. R. Shoemaker, of the Office of Defense Transportation:

"To accomplish this purpose, it is essential that reasonable and adequate stocks of repair parts and materials be maintained in such manner that they will be immediately available to meet demands created by actual break-down or threatened break-down in the refrigerating systems of these warehouses."

The task committee, appointed to investigate repair and maintenance problems, based its conclusions largely on data secured from seven trade associations representing approximately 90% of the industry. The findings show that there are serious delays in delivering repair parts because of difficulty in obtaining critical materials; and that there is already a serious shortage of skilled service and repair men.

Among the recommendations made
(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1)

Parts Guarantee on Reconditioned Boxes Means Labor, Too

WILMINGTON, Del.—Where a reconditioned refrigerator is sold with a written guaranty on parts, under Maximum Price Regulation No. 139—Used Household Mechanical Refrigerators—the dealer must provide free of charge the labor employed in installing a new part under the terms of the guarantee, the OPA has ruled.

The matter came up in the case of a Wilmington, Del. dealer, which made the following inquiry of the OPA:

"We are a dealer in used household mechanical refrigerators, and inquire whether Section 1380.204 (c) (21), of Maximum Price Regulation No. 139, which requires that a reconditioned refrigerator be furnished with a written guaranty that any part proving defective within one year be replaced free of charge, includes labor as well as the cost of the materials."

The ruling, made by Harold Leventhal, OPA assistant general counsel, stated:

"Sub-paragraph 1380.204 (c) (21) Of Maximum Price Regulation No. 139 reads as follows:

"With each reconditioned refrigerator there shall be furnished a written guarantee that any part proving defective within one year from date of installation will be replaced free of charge."

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 5)

This is the bulletin issue of the News. More details on the news stories plus special features in next week's full size issue.

Repair Parts Rating Equivalent To AA-1 Sought For Refrigeration

(Concluded from Page 1, Column 3)

by the committee were the following:

1. Higher preference ratings should be granted for materials for emergency servicing of industrial and commercial refrigerating and air conditioning systems.

2. A supply of raw materials should be made available immediately for repair and replacement parts to take care of emergency breakdowns.

3. A plan should be worked out to provide against possible widespread breakdown of refrigeration equipment in a given area. (Measures to be taken in such an emergency should include the granting of priorities on the use of refrigerated space and transportation and on service and repair labor).

Members of the task committee are A. B. Schellenberg, Alco Valve Co., St. Louis; F. S. McNeal, Universal Cooler Co., Marion, Ohio; and M. G. Munce, York Ice Machinery Corp., York, Penn. The Committee has been reappointed for a continued study of the problem.

COULD RETARD WAR EFFORT

The following is the text of the report submitted to Sterling F. Smith, Chief, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Section, General Industrial Equipment Division, WPB:

We respectfully submit the following report on the findings of the Task Committee appointed Dec. 29, 1942, to consider the problems pertinent to the repair and maintenance of the existing refrigeration and air conditioning machinery and equipment.

In submitting this report, the Committee is very conscious of the serious import of the problem. The continuous operation of this country's refrigeration equipment is so vital to our war effort that the repair and maintenance problem demands immediate and paramount attention. Unless this problem is solved quickly, our war effort may be seriously retarded from many quarters.

Food has become one of our very important instruments of war. Refrigeration must be used in the processing, transportation, and storage of food. Widespread and prolonged breakdowns of refrigeration equipment will reduce our food production. If refrigeration equipment used in food production breaks down and cannot be quickly repaired, food spoils and is irrevocably lost and can never be used in our war effort. Both precious time and valuable materials are lost.

There will be a sharp reduction in the quantities of canned and processed foods available for domestic use. There will, therefore, be an increased use of fresh food which requires refrigeration. Our nation's health can be seriously affected if any appreciable quantity of food is permitted to spoil.

In addition to its use in the food industry, refrigeration and air conditioning equipment is used extensively in a wide variety of manufacturing plants engaged in war production. Chemicals, explosives, synthetic rubber, petroleum products—just to mention a few—all require refrigeration in their manufacture. Obviously, delays in such manufacturing due to breakdowns of refrigeration equipment will adversely affect our war effort.

WHAT WAS SURVEYED

The Committee has attempted to ascertain the current situation with respect to the availability of manufacturing facilities, repair and replacement part inventories, and skilled manpower for field servicing.

In the instructions issued to the Committee, it was charged to investigate the following matters with relation to refrigerating and air conditioning machinery and equipment:

"1. (a) Whether adequate facilities remain available for the production and/or reconditioning of repair parts within the plants now producing such machinery.

"(b) Whether adequate facilities are still maintained for the production and/or reconditioning of such repair parts by plants which have withdrawn from the production of such machinery.

"(c) Whether there is any 'bottleneck' in the production of any particular parts and if so, what is the cause of the 'bottleneck'.

"2. (a) The adequacy of the present facilities for distribution of such repair parts with regard to:

"a. geographical coverage

"b. field inventories

"3. (a) The adequacy of the personnel remaining available for servicing such machinery and equipment with regard to:

"a. geographical coverage

"b. field inventories.

"In the course of this investigation, all the trade associations in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry volunteered helpful information and the results of recent questionnaire-type surveys conducted among their members. These trade associations are:

"Air Conditioning and Refrigerating Machinery Association
"American Society of Refrigerating Engineers

"Commercial Refrigerator Manufacturers Association

"National Refrigeration Supply Jobbers Association

"Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association

"Refrigeration Service Engineers Society

"Standard Refrigeration Compressor Association.

"In the opinion of the Committee, the above trade associations represent 90% of the total refrigeration and air conditioning industry in the United States, exclusive of household mechanical refrigerators. In addition to the above, the results of a questionnaire distributed and tabulated by the Universal Cooler Corp. was considered. The results of the various questionnaire surveys were grouped as answers to eight questions which are listed below, together with the tabulated answers:

THE SPECIFIC FINDINGS

1. Have your facilities (buildings, machine tools, etc.) been converted from the production of parts to the production of war or other items?

Yes 57% No 43%

2. If your facilities (buildings, machine tools, etc.) have not been completely converted, do you still have adequate facilities for the produc-

tion and/or reconditioning of repair parts?

Yes 92% No 8%

3. If you have adequate facilities, does your present production schedule provide for adequate production and/or reconditioning of repair parts?

Yes 74% No 26%

4. In your opinion, is there any "bottleneck" in the production of any particular parts; and, if so, what is the specific cause of the "bottleneck"?

Yes 67% No 33%

5. In your opinion, are the present facilities for distributing repair parts adequate with respect to geographical coverage?

Yes 79% No 21%

6. In your opinion, are the field inventories at present being maintained adequate for the proper distribution of repair parts?

Yes 35% No 65%

7. In your opinion, is the personnel remaining available for servicing refrigeration and air conditioning machinery and equipment adequate with respect to geographical coverage?

Yes 26% No 74%

8. In your opinion, is the personnel remaining available for servicing refrigeration and air conditioning machinery and equipment adequate with respect to the field inventories being maintained for such purposes?

Yes 34% No 66%

CONCLUSIONS

From the above tabulation, and after many discussions with members of the industry, the Committee has arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The manufacturers of refrigeration and air conditioning repair and replacement equipment and materials are not over-converted to other types of equipment and still have production facilities with which to manufacture needed repair and maintenance equipment and materials.

2. There are many serious delays in the delivery of necessary repair parts because of the difficulties experienced by manufacturers in obtaining critical materials for production of these repair parts under existing War Production Board regulations.

3. Existing field inventories are inadequate for the present repair and maintenance requirements.

4. There is already a serious shortage of skilled servicemen and repairmen. A number of the service and repair organizations have already gone out of business for one or more of the following reasons: skilled personnel now in armed forces or war production plants, lack of sufficient materials for rendering proper service, and loss of new installation business.

5. There is universal apprehension about the repair and maintenance situation this coming summer season. It is feared that much food spoilage will occur because rapid repairs on equipment breakdowns will not be possible. One survey studied by the Committee showed that 60% of the reporting service companies had already experienced cases of food spoilage resulting from a delay in securing repair materials. In connection with its work on the war food program, the Office of Defense Transportation is deeply concerned about the necessity of keeping in operation the refrigerated warehouses of the country. We quote from a letter addressed to this Committee and signed by J. R. Shoemaker, Associate Director, Division of Storage, Office of Defense Transportation:

"To accomplish this purpose, it is essential that reasonable and adequate stocks of repair parts and materials be maintained in such manner that they will be immediately available to meet demands created by actual break-down or threatened break-down in the refrigerating systems of these warehouses."

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AA-1

1. It is our understanding that, under the new Controlled Materials Plan, industries will be divided into groups according to their essentiality and will be further classified under these major groups. It is the recommendation of this Committee that immediate and vigorous efforts be made to have refrigeration and air conditioning equipment classified under Group I of CMP Regulation No. 5, with respect to maintenance, repair, and operating supplies.

2. The Committee recommends that an AA-1 preference rating be granted for the procurement of materials for emergency servicing of industrial and commercial refrigerating and air conditioning systems.

3. The Committee recommends that every effort be made to secure deferment and preferred employment status for skilled refrigeration serv-

icemen. It should be pointed out that many of the service organizations are small, independent companies not in a position to train replacements and that organizations of this type are going out of business without provision for the servicing of the equipment owned by their former customers. Although the War Manpower Commission has recognized the repair problem in its Occupational Bulletin No. 42, the Committee feels that every preferred consideration should be given the refrigeration and air conditioning servicemen.

4. The Committee recommends that a supply of raw materials be immediately made available to manufacturers for repair and replacement parts. It should be noted that, although most of the manufacturers in this industry have not over-converted to new products, they are manufacturing refrigeration equipment for war usage and will require time actually to manufacture adequate repair and replacement parts to meet the demands of the coming summer season. Unless materials are provided the manufacturers shortly, it will be impossible to make the deliveries necessary to handle the summer's breakdown situation and prevent food spoilage.

5. Breakdown of the nation's refrigeration equipment, of near-disaster proportions, is probably very unlikely. A plan for such a situation should, however, be formulated now; for if breakdowns should be widespread in any area, rapid action would have to be taken to prevent food spoilage. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to such purely emergency measures as the granting of priorities on the use of refrigerated space and transportation, and on service and repair labor.

Repair and Maintenance Task Committee

A. B. Schellenberg

F. S. McNeal

M. G. Munce.

Lou Maxon To Aid OPA Administrator

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Lou R. Maxon, head of Maxon, Inc., Detroit advertising agency, has been "drafted" by Prentiss M. Brown, OPA Administrator, to become OPA Deputy Administrator in charge of information.

"Mr. Brown and I are old Northern Michigan neighbors," declared Mr. Maxon when the announcement of the appointment was made public. "We think alike and are in agreement both on the vital necessity of rationing and as to the general principles which should control the handling of the job."

"Mr. Brown realizes that the goods of this country belong to its people and that war-time rationing should be run on the basis of sharing what we have with our neighbors and our allies."

"The Administrator is determined to bring order and common sense into rationing methods. He recognizes that rationing presents as great a problem to the people as to the government and is confident that the public will support an honest share-and-share-alike administration. That's the way the job is going to be done."

Congress Group Says --'Defer Mechanics'

(Concluded from Page 1, Column 1)

chanics to keep "essential civilian cars and trucks rolling."

The committee is greatly concerned at the possible effect of point-rationing on retail grocers, particularly the smaller stores," it was stated, and "fears that the inauguration of any such system may prove to be the proverbial last straw and that the proprietors of tens of thousands of food stores may yield to despair and close their doors. The committee questions whether the necessity for general rationing of food supplies has been established."

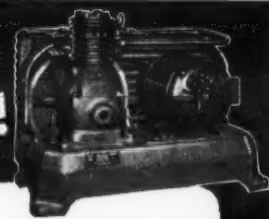
Boston Baked Beans, Facing Extinction Saved by Freezing

BOSTON — Quick-freezing and cardboard packaging has saved Boston's baked bean from national extinction threatened by the disappearance of its former tin container.

A local food company that has always offered the New England delicacy in cans solved the problem by successfully quick-freezing baked beans and packing them in a cellophane-lined cardboard box.

Although the new quick-frozen dish is still limited to Massachusetts tables, it is expected to be available soon in western markets.

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Simple Formula Set For New Stove Prices

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A simplified procedure for establishing ceiling prices at wholesale and retail on new models of domestic cooking and heating stoves was provided in Amendment No. 4 to Revised Price Regulation No. 64—Domestic Heating Stoves—effective Feb. 16.

The amendment provides a method by which the OPA may set both wholesale and retail ceilings at the same time that it establishes the manufacturer's maximum price.

Text of the amendment is as follows:

"(D) Other stoves. The maximum price for any stove (other than a stove sold or delivered pursuant to a cost-plus contract) which differs in specifications from any stove referred to in paragraphs (A) or (B) of this section, and which may be offered for sale under 1356.4 shall be the price authorized by the Office of Price Administration after the manufacturer has submitted to it an application containing: (1) the proposed price and specifications of such stoves, and (2) such other data as the Office of Price Administration may request; and no sale, offer to sell, delivery, or transfer of such stove shall be made until such approval shall be given. Such authorization will be given in the form of an order prescribing the maximum price which the applicant may charge, and such order may also establish maximum prices which sellers of the stove generally may charge, including wholesalers and retailers of the stove.

Inventory Order To Be Handled In New York City

NEW YORK CITY—Administration of the inventory limitation order—L-219—will soon be centered in New York City, Lewis S. Greenleaf, Jr., Director of the Consumer Goods Bureau, has announced. The Consumer Goods Bureau exercises jurisdiction over L-219 through the Consumer Goods Branch of the Retail and Wholesale Trade Division in the Bureau.

Mr. Greenleaf revealed that the administrative offices of the Division together with the Consumer Goods Branch would be transferred to New York within the next few weeks, where they will occupy the fourteenth floor of the Columbian Carbon Company Bldg., located at Forty-Second St. and Madison Ave.

John A. Hurley, Director of the Division will maintain his headquarters at the new location. However, the Industrial and Hardware Supplies Branch of the Division, under Nathaniel G. Symonds, will continue to be located in Washington.

MERCHANDISING CENTER

"In deciding on this shift, we took two important factors into consideration," Mr. Greenleaf said. "First, we recognized the fact that administration of L-219 will be greatly facilitated if the Branch is in close proximity to the major merchandising centers located in New York. L-219 is not a simple order, nor is it one to be easily administered. If Eaton Read (Chief of the Branch) and his staff are in New York rather than Washington, it will save a good deal of unnecessary travel and correspondence and it will certainly speed up the understanding of the order by business and trade association executives who will have the main office of the Bureau readily available when they have questions or problems to discuss.

NO CROWDING IN N.Y.

"Secondly, while the personnel involved is not large, nevertheless the office space problem in the Capital will be eased by locating the Branch in New York. Everyone in Washington understands the difficulties in filling space requirements for the various war agencies. We felt that since L-219 could be administered just as well in New York as in Washington, there was no necessity for keeping the Branch here. We will set up an office here to maintain liaison with the Branch in New York and to handle queries on L-219 which may originate in WPB or elsewhere in Washington."

Order L-219 provides the basic machinery whereby retail inventories in the hands of department stores, distributors, chain stores, and others will be kept down to a normal operating level in relation to sales. Its primary purpose is to assure equitable distribution of retail stocks and to set up barriers to over-accumulation of inventories on the part of large retailers, which would operate to the serious disadvantage of the smaller store owner.

IN 'CONSUMERS GOODS'

Mr. Greenleaf took the occasion of announcing the transfer to explain that administration and full control over provisions of L-219 are now centered in the Consumer Goods Bureau, under the Deputy Director General for Industry Divisions. Because preliminary work on the order—prior to its actual issuance—had been under the Office of Civilian Supply, there has been some misunderstanding as to where the order would be administered.

"It should now be clear in everyone's mind that the order is in operation and that its administration is a regularly assigned function of the Consumers Goods Bureau," he said.

Dole Issues Catalog On Wartime Storage

CHICAGO—"Perfect Refrigeration for Food Storage Rooms"—a two-page catalog section keyed to wartime storage demands—has been added to Role Refrigerating Co. catalog 22.

The new insert includes reprints of customer-letters, pictures of installations, and information about Dole vacuum cold plate evaporators.

Material is printed in red, white, and blue, and is arranged in bleed-page layouts.

Ranchers Win Right To Buy Quantity Foods -- Storage Space Too?

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Ranchers, prospectors and others who live too far from a marketing center to buy their rationed canned and processed foods as often as once a month—the length of each point ration period—may apply to local War Price and Rationing Boards for a certificate allowing them to buy these foods in quantity. Certificates may be granted up to the full number of points in War Ration Book Two.

(It is presumed that this ruling might also apply to quick-frozen foodstuffs also, and may have some bearing on the current controversy over whether or not use of refrigerated locker storage facilities constitutes "hoarding" or wise use of storage facilities that in reality aids the war effort.)

Applications for these certificates may be made to local Boards either in person or by mail, on OPA Form R-315, any time after Ration Book Two is distributed, and must be accompanied by the ration books of all persons included in the application.

When the Board issues the certificate, it will remove three sets of point stamps for each period for which the certificate is granted. For example, a family receiving a certificate for two ration periods would have all stamps from A through F removed.

HOW RATION IS USED

A certificate is good for 60 days from the day it is issued, but its full point value must be spent at one time. It is assumed, rationing officials explain, that consumers who are granted a certificate for a specified time period on the basis of their stated need will use it accordingly. Consumers who buy for more than one ration will nevertheless buy at current point values, although it is probable that the point values of some of the foods they buy will be changed during the time for which certificates are issued.

Provisions for buying rationed foods in quantity, rationing officials point out, will be particularly useful to persons who normally market only infrequently either because they live a great distance from shopping center, or because they are fairly self-sufficient and customarily make only occasional shopping trips.

Without such arrangements, which are also in effect for buying sugar and coffee, families would either have to make extra shopping trips in order to use their ration stamps during the period for which they are valid, or forfeit stamps for periods when marketing is impossible.

Panama Canal and Coast Guard Named As 'Defense Buyers'

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In War Production Board regulations, all exemptions and provisions applying to "defense orders" for the Army and Navy also apply to orders for the Panama Canal and the Coast Guard, respectively, WPB has declared in an official interpretation to Priorities Regulation No. 1 as amended, issued here Feb. 3.

The board's decision answers inquiries made about section 944.1 of the regulation which defines "defense order" to mean, among other things, any contract or purchase order for material or equipment to be delivered to or for the account of the Army or Navy of the United States, the Panama Canal, or the Coast Guard.

Although at present the Panama Canal is part of the Army and the Coast Guard is part of the Navy, specific mention of them in the definition of "defense order" had caused some doubt as to whether they were included in general references made to the Army and Navy in other WPB regulations, particularly when the words "Panama Canal" and "Coast Guard" were not actually named.

According to the interpretation, Canal and Coast Guard are included respectively in such general references to Army and Navy, and are subject to the same conditions unless contrary provision is specifically made.

Guarantee On Parts Means 'Labor Free'

(Concluded from Page 1, Column 2)

"You ask whether the labor incidental to the installation of a replacement part is included in the guarantee. The language of the sub-paragraph just quoted requires that when a seller of a reconditioned refrigerator is required to replace a defective part, he must do so without charge for the part or the labor incidental to the installation of the replacement part. In other words, he may make no

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